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(CIA)

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(BY DANIEL GILMORE)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- THE CIA IS GOING DEEPER  
ABOLISHING ITS OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS EFFECTIVELY  
CONFIRMED TODAY.

HERB KETU, A FORMER NAVY CAPTAIN WHO HEADED  
WHEN STANFIELD TURNER TOOK OVER AS DIRECTOR IN  
ADMINISTRATION, SAID THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION  
WITH REDUCED FUNCTIONS GIVEN TO A NEW DEPARTMENT  
HANDLE THE CIA'S LIAISON WITH CONGRESS.

IT WAS UNDERSTOOD KETU DISAGREED WITH THE DECISION  
THE AGENCY. THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE WORD ON WHAT  
TWO PRINCIPAL ASSISTANTS, DALE PETERSON AND KATHY PHERSON.

WITH SECRETARIES, THE CIA'S PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE HAD A STAFF OF  
ABOUT 12 AND PUT OUT A WEALTH OF NON-CLASSIFIED MATERIAL ON SUBJECTS  
RANGING FROM SOVIET OIL AND GRAIN PRODUCTION TO FULL LISTS AND  
BACKGROUND OF THE LEADERSHIP OF THE SOVIET UNION, CHINA AND OTHER  
COMMUNIST RULED NATIONS.

WILLIAM CASEY, 68, CHIEF OF SECRET INTELLIGENCE IN EUROPE FOR THE  
WORLD WAR II OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES, HAS BEEN CUTTING DOWN ON  
THE AGENCY'S CONTACTS WITH THE MEDIA SINCE HE BECAME CIA DIRECTOR IN  
FEBRUARY AS PRESIDENT REAGAN'S NOMINEE.

LAST MONTH, THE AGENCY ENDED ALL BRIEFINGS FOR REPORTERS ON  
GROUNDS THEY WERE AN IMPOSITION ON THE TIME OF THE BRIEFING ANALYSTS.  
THE BACKGROUND BRIEFINGS WERE USEFUL FOR CORRESPONDENTS BEING SENT  
ABROAD, PARTICULARLY TO SUCH AREAS AS THE SOVIET UNION, CHINA,  
EASTERN EUROPE AND OTHER SENSITIVE POSTS.

CASEY MADE HIS DECISION ON THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE IN AN  
INTERNAL MEMO "FROM THE DIRECTOR."

REFERRING TO CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATIONS AND NEWSPAPER EXPOSES OF  
THE EARLY 1970S ON THE CIA'S PAST MISDEEDS, CASEY SAID "THE  
DIFFICULTIES OF THE PAST DECADE ARE BEHIND US" AND THE AGENCY NO  
LONGER HAD TO WASTE TIME JUSTIFYING ITS ACTIVITIES.

IN HIS MEMO -- WHICH HAS NOT OFFICIALLY RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC --  
CASEY SAID, "OUR EMPHASIS FROM NOW ON SHOULD BE TO MAINTAIN AND  
ENHANCE CIA'S REPUTATION NOT BY REPRESENTATIONAL ACTIVITIES BUT BY  
THE EXCELLENCE OF OUR WORK AND THE HIGH QUALITY OF OUR CONTRIBUTION."

THE NEW SECTION WHICH WILL ABSORB THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND  
LEGISLATIVE LIAISON OFFICES WILL BE HEADED BY ROBERT GATES, EXECUTIVE  
STAFF DIRECTOR TO THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY, WHO WILL REPORT  
DIRECTLY TO CASEY AND INMAN.

CASEY ALSO SAID HE WOULD ESTABLISH A SPECIAL CRORE OF NATIONAL  
INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS TO DOWNSIZE THE CIA'S NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE